

and joined together by a sealing seam, said cylindrical shape of said mat filter having an exterior diameter prior to introduction into said casing larger than an interior diameter of said filter casing forming an interference fit therebetween along an entire axial length of said mat filter;

two end caps connected to said filter casing; and

one axial end of said mat filter being formed into a conical shape to facilitate introduction thereof in said filter casing;

whereby, said mat filter is supported directly on said filter casing and said supporting pipe.

11. (Amended) A filter element according to claim 10 wherein

said ends of said filter casing are joined by a heat seal to form said sealing seam.

12. (Amended) A filter element according to claim 10 wherein

said ends of said filter casing are joined by a heating element to form said sealing seam.

13. (Amended) A filter element according to claim 10 wherein

said ends of said filter casing are joined by an ultrasonic weld to form said sealing seam.

23. (Amended) A filter element according to claim 10 wherein

said sealing seam comprises intermittent contact points of said ends of said filter casing.